



## Biennial F. G. Bressani Literary Prize 2010 Edition

### History and Meaning of the Prize

The Italian Cultural Centre Society established the Biennial F. G. Bressani Literary Prize in 1986 during the celebrations for Vancouver's Centennial and the launch of the First National Conference of Italian Canadian Writers.

The Centre's Board of Directors accepted a proposal put forth by a local committee led by C. Dino Minni and Anna Foschi Ciampolini for the creation of a literary prize aimed at honouring and promoting the literary work of Canadian writers of Italian origin or Italian descent.

The Bressani Prize, held every two years and originally dedicated to Italian Canadian literature, was later opened to writers from other cultures but was then discontinued for a few years. In 2000, the Italian Cultural Centre's new F. G. Bressani Committee restored the original intent and meaning of the Prize.

The Prize is named after the Jesuit Father Francesco Giuseppe Bressani, an Italian missionary, born in Rome on May 6, 1612.

### The Life and Times of Father Francesco Giuseppe Bressani

Father Bressani entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus on August 15, 1626 and studied in Rome and Clermont, teaching before his ordination at Sezza, Tivoli, and Paris. On his arrival in America he was assigned to the spiritual care of the French in Quebec, but the following year he was sent to the Algonquins at Three Rivers. In April, 1644, on the way to the Huron Mission, he was captured and cruelly tortured by the Iroquois for over two months. He was finally ransomed by the Dutch at Fort Orange, and sent to France, where he arrived in November, 1644. The following year he was again in Canada and laboured zealously on the Huron Mission until its destruction by the Iroquois four years later. He continued, however, to minister to the scattered and fugitive Hurons.

He was also stationed for a time in Quebec, where he occasionally officiated mass. In November 1650, Bressani's failing health and the meagre resources of the mission obliged him to return to Italy, where he spent many years as a preacher and missionary, dying in Florence on September 9, 1672.

Bressani, who wrote the *Breve Relatione d'alcune Missioni nella Nuova Francia* (Macerata, 1653), can be considered the precursor of Italian Canadian writing.

Source: [http://www.catholicity.com/encyclopedia/b/bressani,francesco\\_giuseppe.html](http://www.catholicity.com/encyclopedia/b/bressani,francesco_giuseppe.html)

The F. G. Bressani Literary Prize dedicated to the memory of Father Bressani, has three goals:

- to stimulate and enhance the literary production of works by Canadian authors of Italian origin or ancestry;
- to add to the richness of the Italian immigrant experience in Canada by celebrating its literary expression;
- to honour and reflect aspects of Italian heritage and culture within an ethno-culturally diverse society.

## Rules and regulations

### Submission Guidelines

- Submissions are accepted from Canadian citizens or permanent residents, 16 years of age and older, with at least one parent or grandparent who was born in Italy;
- Submissions are accepted in any of the following categories:
  - POETRY: Collections of at least 20 poems, published between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2010;
  - FICTION: Narratives of at least 50 pages, published between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2010;
  - SHORT FICTION: Narratives of at least 8.000 characters (with spaces), published between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2010. Collections of short fiction and essays are excluded and will not be accepted.
  - A special Prize for YOUNG AUTHORS is also offered by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura (IIC) in Vancouver to writers born in 1980 or later for works of poetry or fiction or short fiction, either published or unpublished.

- A special Prize is offered by the “Regione Lazio Cultural Society of BC” to non-fiction works (e.g. memoirs, biographies, autobiographies, essays, etc.) on the theme of EMIGRATION FROM ITALY; the works must have been published either on their own – as a book or in journals – or as part of a collection, between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2010.
- Authors can submit works written in Italian, English or French (translations are not eligible);
- Each work must be accompanied by its own original application form;
- Entries must be submitted in 5 copies if competing for any regular Bressani category or for the Special Prize Emigration from Italy (two copies for the readers, two copies for the judges and one copy for the library of the Italian Cultural Centre);
- Entries must be submitted in 6 copies if competing for any regular Bressani category AS WELL AS for the Young Authors Prize (additional copy for the ICC)
- Entries must be submitted in 2 copies if competing only for the Young Authors Prize (either published or unpublished)
- Each author can submit no more than 3 works in total for all categories;
- With the exception of the Young Authors Prize, a writer can win only one prize per category, and each text may be submitted to only one category.
- Manuscripts will not be accepted;
- There must be only one author per entry;
- No entry fee is required;
- Submissions must be sent or delivered in a sealed package with the original application form to the following address, and must be received no later than April 1, 2010:

Italian Cultural Centre  
 F.G. Bressani Literary Prize  
 3075 Slocan Street  
 Vancouver, BC  
 V5M 3E4

- Entries submitted under the wrong category, or which do not qualify for any of the categories, will be disqualified;
- Submitted works will not be returned. However, authors can contact the Italian Cultural Centre and ask to have their books returned, with exception of the copy destined for the ICC library collection, at their own expenses.

## Selection and Adjudication

- Submissions are processed by a two-tiered system of readers and jurors. The entries are screened by carefully chosen readers. Each entry will be read by at least two readers. The readers will come up with a short list of 3 entries per category (finalists), which are then forwarded to the jury who will decide on the winners. The judgement of the jury is final;
- The names of the judges will be released when the finalists will be announced;
- The jury will not be responsible for issues arising from any alleged plagiarism that might be found in the winning works;
- There is only one prize per category:
  - \$500.00 for Poetry;
  - \$500.00 for Fiction;
  - \$500.00 for Short Fiction;
  - \$500.00 for the Special Prize offered by the Italian Cultural Institute for Young Authors.
  - \$500.00 for the Special Prize offered by the Regione Lazio Cultural Society of BC for non-fiction works on Italian Emigration.
- Finalists will be notified by letter after August 31, 2010. Authors who did not qualify as finalists will not be contacted;
- The ICC will publish names and biographies of the finalists and a short synopsis of the shortlisted works in its newsletter and on its website (and will issue press releases on a national scale).
- Finalists are invited to attend the Awarding Ceremony at the Italian Cultural Centre in Vancouver, BC or to delegate a person of their choice to represent them and accept their prize.
- The award ceremony will be held at the end of October 2010. No subsidy or reimbursement is available for travel and/or accommodation expenses.

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